



Eddie A. Perez
Mayor

MAYOR PEREZ PLEASED WITH IRS DECISION TO CLEAR UCC

---MEDIA AND COMMUNITY RELEASE---

(May 22, 2008)--- Mayor Eddie A. Perez is pleased to see that the Internal Revenue Service determined that the United Church of Christ did not violate any federal rules in regards to U.S. Senator Barack Obama's appearance in Hartford at the church's annual conference last summer. This decision allows the UCC to keep its tax-exempt status.

In March, Mayor Perez sent a letter to Hartford's Congressional delegation of U.S. Senator Christopher Dodd, U.S. Senator Joseph Lieberman, and U.S. Representative John Larson, asking them to conduct an inquiry as to why the IRS was investigating the UCC, of which Senator Obama is a member.

Mayor Perez says, "Religious organizations engaging in legitimate and protected religious activity play an important role in our civic society. Basic religious rights must be upheld. No public official should fear that they are putting any religious community at risk when they speak about matters of public importance. I thank the Hartford Congressional delegation for their support on this matter and am pleased that the IRS brought this issue to a swift and positive conclusion."